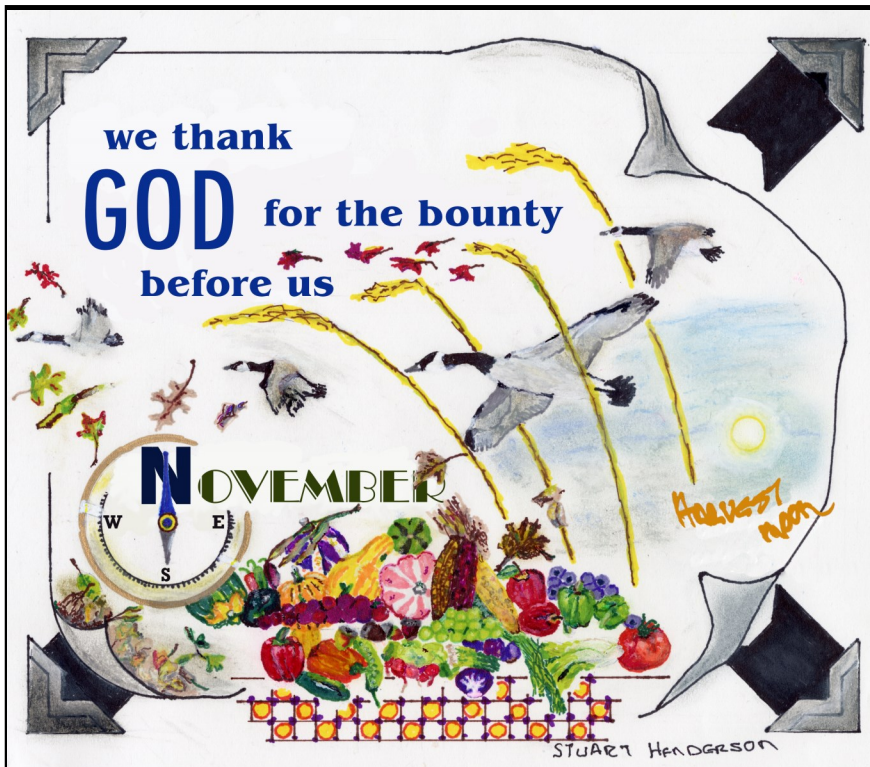


November 2022
Volume 72 Number 11

Faith Lutheran Church

Banner of Faith



May All Find Acceptance In This House

Faith Lutheran Church

2740 Fuller Avenue NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49505-2679

Phone: 616.361.2679

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 8 am—noon

www.faithlutheranchurchgr.org

Church Staff

Pastor

Kevin Sullivan

pastorflcgr@att.net

Administrative Assistant

Leslie Karsten

flcgr@att.net

Custodian

Gene Gibson

Director of Music

Sharon TerBeek

Worship Coordinator

Jess Luiz

Librarian

Kevin Lyons

2022 Congregational Council

Meetings are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month following the late service.

President **Deb Sypien**

Vice President Open

Secretary **Claudia Zimmerman**

Treasurer **Mary Appelt**

Resource Mgmt. **Dan Carter**

Facilities Mgmt. **Kent Bollinger**

Communications **Jane Haradine**

Personnel Open

Missions & Stewardship

Kevin & Gene Lyons

Discipleship **Stacey Schepers**

Worship Open

Congregational Life

Nancy Morrison & Dorothy Stoken

Congregational Care Open

Youth Representatives Open



By Rev. Kevin Sullivan

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

There is some debate about the best interpretation of the verses above. In particular, there are those who would suggest that when we are exhorted to “give thanks in *all* circumstances,” we are being told to give thanks *for* even those things that seem bitter and tragic to us, while others suggest that we are being encouraged to find *something* to give thanks for even when our circumstances seem desperate.

I think I get where some people might say we should give thanks *for* even the worst things that come our way. In my mind, I can make a case that we—being mortal and of limited insight into what the future holds and how God might be working even now to bring good from the worst possible circumstances—may be acting in a faithful manner when we give God thanks even for the bad stuff.

It's like we're saying, “God, I don't know how these circumstances can possibly be a part of your plan for bringing your kingdom to this earth, but I will choose to trust you even more than I trust my feelings, my perceptions, and my judgments of what is worthy of thanks and what isn't.

But, I tend to fall toward the latter interpretation. To me it seems like it would be a rejection of our truth to give thanks for things that bring pain to ourselves or others. It seems like a form of denial to put a false smile on our faces and thank God for devastating storms and dour news from the doctor or a bleak outlook for our loved ones.

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That being said, I believe that even when we are in times that might be characterized as being downhearted, there is a real value to finding the good spots and focusing on them as much as possible. I say this because I know how easy it is for us to allow the negative things to overwhelm us to the point where we no longer see *any* good, and our whole lives can become consumed by the downward spiral of darkness.

When, in spite of our grief, for example, we take a moment to give thanks for the kindness of our friends who have been attempting to support us, we are not denying our grief (or even our anger with God) for the loss of our loved one, but allowing an honest balance in our lives. Sometimes bad things happen in life, and we react through the intelligence and emotions that God has given us—we react with fears and tears and anger and frustration—and it seems to me that God has created us in such a way that it's pretty natural for us to do so.

But when we allow that which is negative in our lives to poison the well of our souls to the point that we no longer see *any* good, then we are closing our eyes to reality just as surely as those who would call a bad thing good and pretend to be thankful for that which they can only know as evil.

This month, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. I know this is considered a secular holiday, but there is something very right about having a day set aside to remind us to be thankful.

During the pandemic, it has been very easy to fall into a kind of tunnel vision in which we have pretty much focused *only* on the numbers of those who have been infected, or hospitalized, or died. It's been easy to focus on our losses and our anger at those who we think have restricted our freedoms. It's been easier to think of the

things we can't do and can't enjoy, the peace and hope and joy that we have set aside than to open our minds to that which has been potentially good.

During this time when we may be transitioning back into something like a new normal, there are some who are struggling with lingering fears and residual anger, a kind of paranoid tendency to look over our shoulder and see potential new dangers and traumas lurking in every shadow.

My prayer for us during this season is that we will find a release in offering our heartfelt thanks for that which is worthy of thanks. That we will intentionally seek to restore the balance in our lives as we remember God's goodness—and name it and claim it. And perhaps we will find that every offering of thanks we raise to God is like lighting a candle in our darkness, and the more candles we light, the brighter our lives become—and the more light we have to share with others. Amen.





Musical Notes

By Jess Luiz

Sanctuary Decor Volunteers Needed

Over the next few weeks, the Sanctuary colors will be changed several times as we observe various holidays. Even if you've never decorated the sanctuary, but would like to help, please join us.

The tasks include changing the banners and paraments, placing candles for All Saints Day and decorating for Advent. We especially need help after the 10 am worship services on

- **Sunday, October 30**, to prepare for All Saints Sunday, and
- **Sunday, November 20**, to prepare for Advent.



Pumpkin

How many words can
you make from the
word pumpkin?

1	10
2	11
3	12
4	13
5	14
6	15
7	16
8	17
9	18

Council Capsule

By Claudia Zimmerman

Congregational Council meeting on Sunday, October 9, 2022. The Capsule is a condensed summary of Council business. Council members attend in person or online.

Revive – The ELCA will offer a new “Congregational Vitality Training” program that will overlap the objectives for REVIVE. The programs will be merged, with the first emphasis on Evangelism.

Narthex – Stacking chairs for the tables need to be purchased and the gold chairs reupholstered. New stacking chairs might be considered for the Fellowship Hall when ordering.

Communications – Website improvements still are not finished. They were expected to be working before the end of June and to be more user-friendly. A simple letterhead style logo is being designed for general use. The online calendar is up-to-date with information available, but more specific information is needed. The online sign-up system for volunteers was discussed, but overlap issues experienced with sign-up sheet would have to be dealt with. A bulletin board in the Narthex near the Lending Library will be used for event information.

Congregational Life – The Second Best Sale will be from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday, Oct. 28 and from 9 am to noon on Saturday, Oct. 29. The Ice Cream Social / Band Concert went well, with about 40 people in attendance and around \$500 donated to NECM. The Angel Tree and Mitten Tree will go up in the Narthex on November 1.

Congregational Care – Cards continue to go out. A goal is to work toward visitations to shut-ins. An updated list is needed.

Discipleship – A trip to Robinette's Orchard was planned for October 16 and Halloween's Trunk-or-Treat on October 30 will be with Northlawn United Methodist Church on Fuller Avenue in their parking area from 4 to 6 pm.

Work times to make crafts is planned for November to prepare for the Christmas Bazaar to be held December 11 and 18 in the Narthex.

Facilities – A proposal for repair of the deteriorating angled support beams has been requested. The bees in the patio area have been taken care of.

Finances – Offering donations have been good recently. Some major bills for insurance and technology updates may require a transfer of funds.

Worship and Music – We welcome Jonathan Lonsway, who will be directing Bell Choir as well as playing the organ for the 8:30 service. Director of Music Sharon TerBeek’s last services are the Sunday worship service December 18 and the Christmas Eve Service. Jess Luiz will take over plans for services as Worship Coordinator. Apianist for the Praise Band will be sought.

Stewardship – Time and Talent volunteer sheets return to their former use this year, and there will be no Stewardship luncheon as there will be a 70th Anniversary luncheon on November 20.

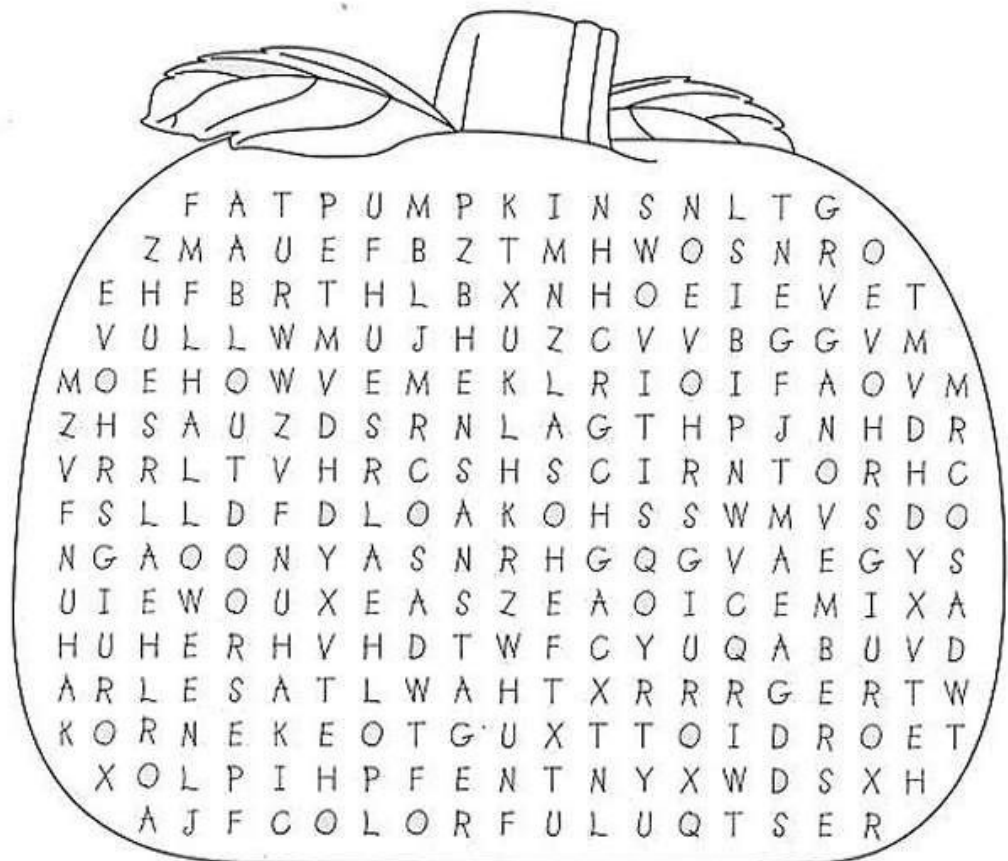
Pastor’s Report – Noted was the upgrade in technology of Internet and computers through a new provider, continuation of Bible Studies on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings, and Samaritas Worship monthly. Ten new members were welcomed on September 25. Time and Talent Surveys and Pledge Cards will be collected to wind up the Stewardship focus. Pastor Kevin enjoyed meetings with the Grand Rapids Conference of Pastors.

Next Council meeting: November 13 at 11:30 am, in the Library, in person and online.

Preliminary Annual Meeting

Our congregation holds two annual meetings. The Preliminary Annual Meeting, in which members elect new council members and receive a draft of the proposed budget for the coming year, will be held on November 27 immediately after the 10 am worship service.

If you are a voting member of Faith Lutheran, we would love to have you stay for the meeting immediately following the 10 am worship service.



Word List

AUTUMN
 COLORFUL
 FARMERS
 FIELDS

GOURDS
 HALLOWEEN
 HARVEST
 HAYRIDE

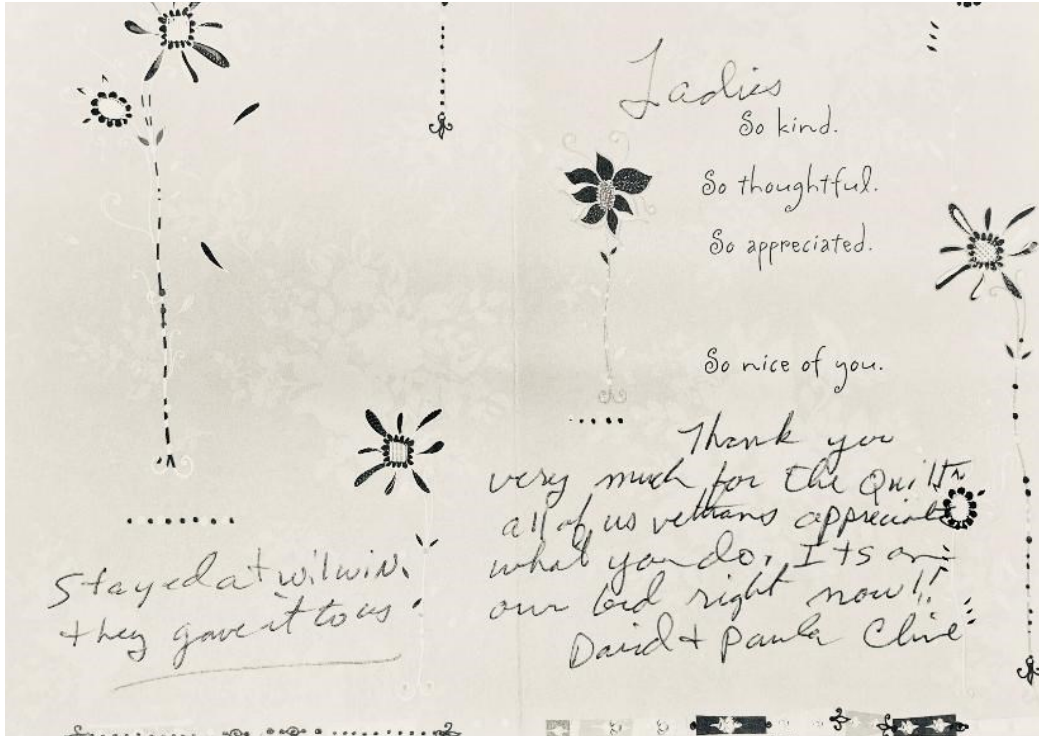
LEAVES
 NOVEMBER
 OCTOBER
 OUTDOORS

PUMPKINS
 SCARECROW
 THANKSGIVING

A Thank You to our Quilters from a Veteran

By Joan Mull

This note was received from a veteran who stayed at Wilwin Lodge.



Wilwin Lodge at Cygnet Cove in Custer, Michigan ,serves all veterans, from all wars, regardless of affiliation, especially those who have PTSD, TBI, or are handicapped.

We have donated quilts to Wilwin for several years. This ministry has touched countless people.

Shut-in



Please continue to keep the following in your prayers.

Mary Brush
2772 Pfeiffer Woods Dr. SE Apt #1311
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Kim Granzotto
8855 Shaner
Rockford, MI 49341

Jeanette Hall
%Boulder Creek
6070 Northland Dr. Room #37
Rockford, MI 49341

Phyllis Kozak
3900 Pine Lake Road
Savanna Pines Apt #305
Lincoln, NE 68516



Marianne Lareva
2043 Krislin St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Gerry and Kris Lignell
2102 W. Wyndham Hill Apt #103
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Earl Mandeville
% Vista Springs
2420 Coit Ave. Room #34
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Myrtle McLain
%Story Point
2885 10 Mile Rd. Apt #18
Rockford, MI 49341

Maxine Moerdyk
781 Greenfield Road Apt.
127 Tiffin, OH 44883

Marie Morrison
2075 Three Mile Road NE
Grand Rapids, Mi 49505

Winona Petersen
Home Street Manor
407 E. Home Street
Edmore, MI 48829

Sally Simmons
6570 Egypt Valley NE
Rockford, MI 49341

Marjory Trylch
115 84th St.
Building 3, Room 3
Byron Center, MI 49315

Linda Vos
2000 32nd St. Apt. #347
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Nancy Wiedyk
945 Water St.
Belding, MI 48809





Community Service project for October and November will benefit Guiding Light Men's Ministry.

Items needed include **NEW:**

- Underwear
- Shirts (M, L, XL)
- Gloves
- Hats
- Jackets
- Toiletries

Look for the blue tote to drop off your donation.

As always, monetary donations are welcome for purchase of these items.

Please write checks to Women of Faith, earmarked for Guiding Light.

A Story

By Eugene Lyons

This is my story. It can be your story also. It's a story about the books of Genesis and John. This is not a science story, but a spiritual story. This story is not just for Christians, but for all of mankind. All of us.

I'll paraphrase: God created, and it was good, and he created man in his own image, and it was very good. He said to the man, "You are responsible for caring for the earth and everything in and on it."

In John, we find, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God. Through him all things were made. In him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but darkness has not understood."

The idea and ideal for all of us is to live in harmony with each other. What does living in harmony mean?

1. To take care of ourselves—physically, mentally, spiritually. We are the temple.
2. To care about all others, their well-being, justice, peace.
3. To take care of the earth and help preserve it for future generations.

If we do all these three things, I believe we are living in harmony with God.

We can all be thankful for grace, as none of us have fully and always functioned by these three principles. All of us have faults. We need to believe and internalize that we are forgiven. Forgiving frees us from the past so we can do good today. Each day is a new day for us to do good.

How do we see this story in connection with stewardship and missions. I believe that it is a central question for the church and our religion. WE CARE—WE SHARE. The Word was from the beginning, it was what we call God. In the Word was life and light and the darkness could not put it out.

We were put on this earth to do good and do our part to make this a better world.

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

Counters Report – September 2022

Income			SEPT	SEPT	YTD	YTD
General Operating						
Offering			\$15,267.00		\$117,860.00	
Electronic			\$1,700.89		\$16,972.66	
Total Offering				\$16,967.89		\$134,832.66
Building Use			\$322.50		\$8,392.50	
Miscellaneous			0		\$516.00	
Miscellaneous IRS Refund			0		\$20,279.70	
Total Other				\$322.50		\$29,188.20
Thrivent			0			\$1,052.00
Baird			0			\$85,000.00
Miscellaneous Electronic			0			\$518.05
Total General Operating				\$17,290.39		\$250,590.91
Designated						
Memorial			0		\$100.00	
Cupboard			\$60.00		\$560.00	
Youth			0		\$89.49	
Quilting			\$60.00		\$3,080.00	
Special			0		\$0.00	
Miscellaneous			0		\$310.00	
Total Designated				\$120.00		\$1,139.49
Total Income September 2022				\$17,410.39		\$254,730.40

Faith's 70th Anniversary Celebration

By Kevin Lyons

Faith Lutheran will be honoring its 70th anniversary on November 23. The first worship service was held at Aberdeen Elementary School on November 23, 1952.

To celebrate, the church is having a 70th Anniversary Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 20, at 11:30 am, after the 10 am worship service. Deadline for RSVPs is Sunday, November 6. A 70th Anniversary T-shirt will be available to purchase.





BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

11/3	Sue Redner	11/12	Christina Novak
11/4	Dawn Bennett	11/14	Sadof
11/4	Denice Brede	11/17	Paul Bonney
11/4	Dorothy Stoken	11/20	Nancy Morrison
11/5	Kent Bollinger	11/20	Alice Schepers
11/6	Thomas Sypien	11/22	Shehroz
11/8	Janis Hansen	11/22	Douglas Turnquist
11/9	Marjory Trylch	11/26	Jennifer Bacon
11/11	Jax Bacon	11/26	Scott Robertson
11/11	Carrie Lachniet	11/26	Peter Roeller
11/11	Eugene Lyons		
11/12	Maylee Bonney		

Happy Anniversary!

Bruce and Teresa VanderBerg	11/1
*Ronald and Jean Blauwkamp	11/4
*Ronald and Sue Redner	11/9
Kaleigh and Robert Hanlon	11/11
*William and Patricia Rose	11/14

*** Denotes those celebrating 50+ years of marriage!**

Prayer Requests



Myrtle McLain	Cecilia	Phyllis Fish
Samaritas Lodge	Kim Granzotto	Cheryl Streb
Bishop Craig Satterlee	Marie Morrison	Ron Blauwkamp
John Zimmerman	Jacob Ergang	Inez Houghtalin
Pamela and Grace	Denny	Fatima
Brody Murray Great-grandson of Jane Haradine	Jim Johnson Brother of Paula Nienhuis	Geri Lignell
Marianne Lareva	Nancy Murphy Mother of Denice Brede	Carol Frasier

Prayer Chain Contact

Wendy Domagalski

Bulletin and Banner Prayer List

Names submitted for the Prayer List will be printed for four weeks. If you wish to resubmit your name, contact the church office at 616.361.2679 or flcgr@att.net.